

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4-9, 11-18, 20, 22, and 24. A copy of all pending claims follows with each claim including a status identifier pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121.

1. (Original) Method for heating a roller used in the production and/or finishing of a web of material, particularly a paper web or paperboard web, characterized in that the roller (12) is heated from the outside by a heated gas (14).
2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the fuel gas (14) is generated by means of at least one burner (18, 38) arranged near the roller surface (16).
3. (Original) Method according to claim 2, characterized in that the fuel gas (14) emerging from the burner (18) acts on the surface (16) of the rotating roller.
4. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the roller (12) is heatable on a zone basis viewed in the direction of the roller axis (X), with the various zones being heatable independently of each other at least in part.
5. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that several burners (18) distributed over the length of the roller (12) are provided.
6. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the burner used is a catalytic burner (18) by means of which the heat gas (14) is generated through combustion of a fuel (20) with air (22) or oxygen.
7. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that

the burner (18) comprises a carrier (24) with catalytic coating.

8. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that a fuel gas is used as fuel (20).

9. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the burner (18) is fed with an in particular adjustable fuel gas/air mixture.

10. (Original) Method according to claim 9, characterized in that the fuel (20) and air (22) are fed to a mixing element (26) installed upstream from the burner (18).

11. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the supplied air (22) is distributed by means of an air distributor (28) among several burners (18).

12. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the reaction or roller temperature is adjusted or controlled by means of the fuel/air mass flow ratio.

13. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the fuel gas mass flow is controlled.

14. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the fuel gas concentration in the air is controlled.

15. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the respective control is performed on a zone basis.

16. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,

characterized in that
hydrogen or hydrogen-rich gas (reformat) is used as fuel.

17. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,
characterized in that
natural gas is used as fuel.
18. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,
characterized in that
a respective burner (18) is arranged in an air-moving chamber (34) and the air
flowing over the burner (18) is mixed with the burner waste gas.
19. (Original) Method according to claim 18,
characterized in that
the air flowing over the burner (18) is mixed with the waste gas from the burner
(18) by means of a mixing element in the region of the end of the air-moving
chamber (34) facing the roller.
20. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,
characterized in that
hot gas (40) generated by means of a burner (38) is mixed with supplied cold air
(46) in at least one mixing element (44) in order to generate the heat gas (14) for
acting on the roller (12).
21. (Original) Method according to claim 20,
characterized in that
the mass flow of the cold air fed to the mixing element (44) is adjustable or
controllable.
22. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~,
characterized in that
the burner (38) is fed with air (56) and fuel (54), in particular fuel gas.
23. (Original) Method according to claim 22,
characterized in that
natural gas is used as fuel gas (54).
24. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 20 ~~one of the claims 20 to 23~~,

characterized in that

the hot gas (40) generated by means of the burner (38) is distributed by means of a gas distributor (42) among several mixing elements (44) that are distributed over the length of the roller (12).

25. (Original) Method according to claim 24,

characterized in that

the mass flows of cold air fed to the various mixing elements (44) are separately adjustable or controllable at least in part.